



GOVERNOR'S STATE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

State of Montana

Brian Schweitzer, Governor

Issue 14

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May 2006

SWIB Issues Letters of Support

by Chris Wilhelm

The USDOL's Employment and Training Administration (ETA) announced a \$4 million grant competition for grassroots faith-based and community based organizations to help underserved populations prepare for and succeed in employment. Services funded by the grants will focus on individuals who face significant hurdles to employment, includ-

ing welfare recipients, high school dropouts, and ex-offenders. Grantees will provide personal care and supportive services, such as mentoring or life skills coaching, to enable individuals to fully utilize the employment services offered at One-Stop Career Centers. Applicant organizations are expected to create their program in coordination with local One-

Stop Career Centers.

SWIB staff prepared a letter of support for each of two organizations applying for this funding; Good Samaritan Family Ministries of Helena, and Interfaith Hospitality Network of Yellowstone County. Best of luck to you both! ✿

Last Chance to Nominate

by Chris Wilhelm

The last chance to submit nominations for the 2006 Governor's Desiree Taggart Memorial Awards is almost upon us! Montana organizations, businesses and individuals involved in workforce development are eligible for the awards based on outstanding achievement or contribution to employment and training efforts in Montana, including: improved

"It's time to recognize the contributions of our neighbors ... by nominating the "Desiree" of your town," said Governor Schweitzer.

productivity, creativity, economy and efficiency in Montana's workforce system. Award nominations post marked by **May 31, 2006** will

be considered for the following categories:

- Outstanding Business of the Year
- Quality Program
- Workforce Development Achievement

For more information, go to the SWIB's website:

www.boards.mt.gov/swib/ (Resources tab), or contact Chris at 406-444-4480. ✿

WIA Update

by Kathy Yankoff

Assessment of basic skills in reading and math is one of the requirements of the WIA application process, and is an important element in developing effective plans to help WIA participants reach their employment goals. In order to ensure consistency

and quality in this assessment process, the WIA Unit is collaborating with the Office of Public Instruction, Adult Basic Education and Literacy to provide training in the administration of the TABE test. Regional training sessions will be held in Lewistown,

Butte and Missoula in June and all WIA service providers will be required to send at least one staff to become a certified TABE administrator. ✿

Happy Spring!

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Upcoming Events:

May 14

Mother's Day

May 23

Youth Council Meeting
4:30 pm

Helena Capitol Building, Rm 172

May 31

Desiree Taggart Memorial Awards Nominations Due

June 8

Apprenticeship Advisory Committee
9:00 AM

Helena Red Lion Colonial Inn

June 8

One-Stop Development Committee
9:00 AM

Helena Red Lion Colonial Inn

June 8

Economic Development Committee
1:00 PM

Helena Red Lion Colonial Inn

June 8

Workforce System Committee
1:00 PM

Helena Red Lion Colonial Inn

June 9

SWIB

Time TBD

Helena Red Lion Colonial Inn

July 11-13

Workforce Innovations 2006 Annual Conference
Anaheim, CA

September 5-8, 2006

NASWA Annual Conference
Boise, ID



Healthcare Taskforce & Youth Council

by Chris Wilhelm

Healthcare Taskforce

The SWIB's Executive Committee voted to establish a new Healthcare Taskforce on April 20, 2006. Chairman Miles appointed Karen Sullivan as the Chair. Taskforce members are now being identified.

The advice and decisions made by this taskforce will be vital in addressing current and future healthcare workforce shortages in Montana. By taking account of the many available studies, current data, and resources throughout the state, the SWIB Healthcare Taskforce will work to:

- Identify the shortages and the regions within which they exist.
- Identify causes of the shortages, and
- Suggest remedies to the identified shortages, so that

the taskforce can make recommendations on priorities and the best places to target resources.

SWIB staff will keep you informed. Please check the website often. www.boards.mt.gov/swib/ Congratulations, Karen!

Youth Council

Chairman Miles, in coordination with Governor Schweitzer, has appointed John Beaudry as Chairman of the Youth Council, and appointed council members.

Duties of the council as outlined in section 117(h) of WIA Law are:

- Develop portions of the local plan relating to eligible youth, as determined by the chairperson of the state board
- Recommend eligible providers of youth activities, to be awarded grants or contracts

on a competitive bases by the state board to carry out the youth activities

- Conducting oversight with respect to the eligible providers of youth activities in the statewide planning area
- Coordinate youth activities authorized under section 129 within the statewide planning area, and
- Other duties determined to be appropriate by the chairman of the state board.

Congratulations to the Youth Council members: John Beaudry, Chair; Natalee Barnes; Marcella Buster; Curt Campbell; Daniel Dolan; Sara Fox; Jake Gustin; Tescha Hawley; James McDonald; Warren Means; Jody Messinger (SWIB); Mike Nephew; James Patelis; and Leisa Smith. ❀

State Workforce Investment Board Members

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Marty Copps, Vice Chair

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John Beaudry
Arlene Becker
Dave Crum
Thomas Curry
Michael DesRosier
Georgia Gibbs-Atkinson
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Keith Kelly
Maureen Kenneally
Lane Larson
Robbe Lindsay
Thomas McKenna
Jody Messinger
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Michael O'Neill
Arlene Parisot
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Gail Richardson
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Teresa Wall-McDonald
Linda Woods

Staff:

Pam Watson, Director
Chris Wilhelm, Program Spec.
Jessica Snyder, Admin. Asst.
Mark Maki, Director of
Apprenticeship and Training

WIRED Grant Update Excerpt from 4/27/06 Press Release

Governor Schweitzer announced Paul Tuss of Havre and Adam de Yong of Helena will initially administer the Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) grant that Montana received in February. Permanent positions will be offered within the year.

Paul Tuss will serve as the WIRED Project Director for a startup period of 90 days. Tuss is the Executive Director of the Bear Paw Development Corporation, which specializes in regional economic and community development. He

is the past President of the Montana Economic Developers Association, a member of the Montana Economic Development Advisory Council and a member of the Small Business Development Center Advisory Council. Tuss received a bachelor's degree from the University of Montana. He will retain his position at Bear Paw.

Adam de Yong will serve in a temporary position as the Administrative Officer. He most recently served as an Economic Development Specialist in the Governor's Office

of Economic Development. Prior to that de Yong worked as an independent business consultant on multiple business development/research projects. He has also worked for a venture capital firm. de Yong graduated from the University of Montana with a degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Management, Marketing, and International Business. He grew up in Kalispell, Montana on a small family farm and graduated from Flathead High School. ❀

